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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/083,233	10/24/2001	Walter J. Laird	1803-311-999	4738

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EXAMINER	
TUNG, JOYCE	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
1637	

DATE MAILED: 01/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/083,233	LAIRD ET AL.
	Examiner Joyce Tung	Art Unit 1637

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 September 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

The amendment filed 9/10/2003 has been entered. Following the entry of the amendment the claims 1-20 are pending.

Rejections and/or objected from the previous office action are hereby withdrawn. The following rejections are either newly applied or reiterated. They constitute the complete set presently being applied to the instant application.

1. Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10-14, 16-18 and 20 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Will (US 6001,611, issued December 14, 1999) in view of Gold et al. (US 2002/-172962A1, November 21. 2002).

The response argues that the PTO has not provided any motivation for using a nucleotide modified on its sugar instead of on its base in Will's methods and all cited modified nucleotide of Gold are modified on their sugar, containing a bulky side group bound to C-2 of the sugar (page 9, lines 10-20 and page 11, lines 7-12). However, the claims do not require the modification of nucleotides on their sugar. Thus, the argument does not commensurate to the limitation of the claims.

The response further argues that Gold teaches the use of said modified nucleotides for purposes unrelated to a nucleic acid amplification reaction. Nevertheless, Gold discloses that the modified nucleotides increase the affinity to the target (See column 36, claim 1). This teaching has motivated one of ordinary skill in the art to apply the modified nucleotide of Gold at the 3' terminal of the primer in the method of Will to reduce non-specific amplification since Will indicates that amplifications carried out using the modified primers result in less non-specific

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amplification products (See the Abstract). Applicant's arguments filed 9/10/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The rejection is maintained.

2. Claims 5, 9, 15 and 19 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Will (US 6001,611, issued December 14, 1999) in view of Gold et al. (US 2002-172962A1, November 21, 2002) and in further view of Reese (WO 00/56747, September 28, 2000).

The response argues that the combination of Will and Gold does not establish prime facie obviousness against claims 1 and 11 from which claims 5, 9, 15 and 19 depend. As the reasons discussed in section 1 above, the rejection of claims 1 and 11 over Will (US 6001,611, issued December 14, 1999) in view of Gold et al. (US 2002-172962A1, November 21, 2002) is maintained.

The response further argues that the modification of nucleotide of Reese is on their sugar. As the reasons discussed in section 1 above, the claims do not require the modification of nucleotides on their sugar. Thus, the argument does not commensurate to the limitation of the claims. Applicant's arguments filed 9/10/2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The rejection is maintained.

Summary

3. No claims are allowable.

Conclusion

4. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

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A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

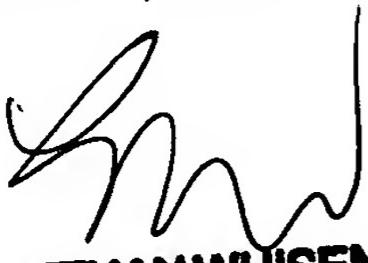
5. Any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joyce Tung whose telephone number is (703) 305-7112 (new phone number (571) 272-0790 after 1/22/2004). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 AM-4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gary Benzion can be reached at (703) 308-1119 on Monday-Friday from 10:00 AM-6:00 PM.

Any inquiries of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Chemical/Matrix receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

6. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Art Unit 1637 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1 using (703) 305-3014 or 308-4242. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989).

Joyce Tung
December 17, 2003



ETHAN WHISENANT
PRIMARY EXAMINER